



WAKONSE

You come with high hopes to learn and perhaps change something about yourself as a professor. Most will not leave disappointed. But let us suggest what others who attended prior conferences have said made it happen. Maybe it will affect how you use your time here.

First, the place is truly unique in ways you need to quickly appreciate. The lake, the sand dunes, the private places in among the dunes, the rustic building, chapels, a music center, a craft house, lookout points, trails through the forest, paths that take you to a small lake or a creek, a pristine forest and sometimes a beautiful sunset over Lake Michigan. Much of this is not seen at home. Explore.

Second, you are with a stimulating group of people all committed to teaching, to becoming better at what they do. Do all you can to meet as many of them as you can as quickly as you can. Make connections, network, and share your interests. Participate as much as you can.

Third, take time for yourself! It's a seemingly impossible task given what we said about the place and the people, but what many remember most about Wakonse, ironically, is their time alone—however brief, however difficult it is to find. Make time: never leave here saying you did not spend time alone walking the beach, reading a book, taking in a sunset.

We plan a full schedule but some of you will need to take a break from it. We accept it is reasonable you can plan better for yourself than we can. What we preach is what we expect: find "balance in living", "your own self at your very best", and do that in whatever way you can. That will make all of us better able to learn from the experience. Enjoy! Let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

With the End in Mind:

At the beginning, preview what we expect at the end. Read the paragraphs below describing the expectations we have for participants. It may further help you make use of your time at the conference.

You will leave Wakonse changed in some small way – more relaxed, more energized, maybe more reflective about yourself as a professor, yourself as a teacher. Use the beach, the water, the sand dunes, the free time, the books or readings, the other participants and all of what is provided in the program format to find those changes for yourself. Before we close the conference we'll ask for

each of you to put in writing things you intend to do when you return home. In your small group you can share those ideas. It increases the chance you'll act on them when home.

We'll ask each of you for one idea you took from the book by Ken Bain, What the Best College Teachers Do. That testimonial will let all of us hear what will be some of the collective impact of the conference. Please read the Bain book with that in mind: be ready to tell us the one thing that most impressed you or will most likely be what you will change or implement when you return to the classroom. Hopefully, this will help all of us better appreciate the total impact of the conference.

Joseph A. Johnston, Ph.D.
Director, Wakonse Foundation

WAKONSE FOUNDATION · 323 GREEN MEADOWS CIRCLE · COLUMBIA, MO 65203
PHONE: 573-882-0699 · FAX: 573-882-5440 · EMAIL: JohnstonJ@missouri.edu